

Appendix A3:

Trends Affecting Forest Management in the West

In 1999, the “R4 Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management Team” produced a list of major social and economic trends and trend breaks for the western states. Their findings seem to support those presented by this Assessment, and mirror observations many outlined in *Section 2—Findings*.

- Expanding urban populations -- Phoenix, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Portland, Seattle...
- Expanding population in “discovered” recreation centers -- Aspen, Vail, Park City...
- Increasing ethnic diversity in urban centers and “discovered” recreation centers
- Continued financial hardship for many rural hamlets and counties
- Declining population in some rural hamlets and counties
- Increasing concern over air quality, water quality and water quantity
- Increasing concern over loss of open space (esp. in urban and semi-rural settings)
- Increasing costs of waste management (and increasing interest in recycling)
- Information-age footloose industry settling into certain parts of the West, both rural and metropolitan
- Increasingly transformed landscapes (cumulative effects of insect and fire regimes, mining, recreation development, grazing, logging, subdividing, etc.)
- Increasing corporate and private ownership of large blocks of private land (private lands more and more the domain of the wealthy, esp. large ranches and “discovered” rec. communities)
- Increasing subdivision of urban-forest fringe areas
- Widening gap between rich and poor (all US but particularly evident in the West)
- Large increases in prescribed fire (and associated smoke, hazard, etc.)
- Increasing biomass in some forest and rangeland types (and associated higher risks of fire, differing habitats, etc.)
- Continued and increasing conflicts over so-called “roadless” lands
- Continued and increasing loss of biological diversity

- Increasing pressures for use of all types (but particularly strong trends in recreational uses: hiking, biking, OHVs, sport-utility vehicle use, camping, picnicking, etc.)
- Increasing pressures for preservation and conservation
- Increasing feelings of “loss” associated with public and private lands
 - “fees” instead of “free”
 - “lost landscapes” & loss of relatively uncongested use of “special areas”
 - loss of favored species, and sometimes of biological diversity
 - lost access to special places
- Declining commodity use from traditional multiple-use management programs
- Uncertain commodity use from new-found ecosystem management efforts
- Continuing clashes between various government agencies, delegations, etc.
- Increasing emphasis in government on collaboration and partnerships
- Increasing numbers of so-called “community partnerships” (e.g. Quincy, Applegate...)
- Declining belief in government by “experts” and “professionals.”

Source:

USFS Western USA R4 Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management Team, *Eco-Watch Dialogues*, May 1999